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National Agricultural
Statistics Service



Illinois Department
of Agriculture

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SPRINGFIELD, IL -- The Illinois Field Office of NASS today released the USDA's **August Crop Production Report**. State and national highlights of the report include:

ILLINOIS

The 2008 Illinois **corn** crop is expected to yield 172 bushels per acre, down 3 bushels from last year's yield. Production of corn for grain would be 2.03 billion bushels, down 11 percent from 2007. Growing conditions for corn have improved after a rough start caused by heavy rains and flooding conditions across much of the state. Due to the heavy rains, farmers ended corn planting three weeks later than 2007. Warmer weather and adequate sunshine have created excellent conditions for crop progress, pollination, and ear development. As of August 3, 27 percent of the crop was in the dough stage, compared to 66 percent last year and 54 percent for the five-year average. Corn condition was rated 20 percent excellent, 53 percent good, 20 percent fair, 5 percent poor, and 2 percent very poor.

Soybean production in 2008 is expected to reach 375.9 million bushels, 7 percent above last year's production. Yield is forecast at 42 bushels per acre, one bushel below last year. Temperatures were above average for the month and precipitation was in line with average July totals. As of August 3, 31 percent of the crop was setting pods compared to 73 percent last year and 62 percent for the five-year average. The condition of the soybean crop was rated as 3 percent very poor, 6 percent poor, 27 percent fair, 53 percent good, and 11 percent excellent.

The 2008 **winter wheat** yield is estimated at 65 bushels per acre, down one from the July 1 forecast, but eight bushels above the 2007 yield. With 1.16 million acres harvested for grain, production would equal 75.4 million bushels, 49 percent above last year.

(M o r e)

UNITED STATES

Corn production is forecast at 12.3 billion bushels, down 6 percent from last year but 17 percent above 2006. Based on conditions as of August 1, yields are expected to average 155.0 bushels per acre, up 3.9 bushels from last year. If realized, this yield would be the second highest on record, behind 2004. Production would be the second highest on record, behind last year when producers harvested the most acres of corn for grain since 1933. Forecasted yields are higher than last year in the northern and eastern Corn Belt, Ohio and Tennessee Valleys, and northern half of the Atlantic Coast where frequent precipitation this year contrasted with extremely dry weather last year. Expected yields across the southern half of the Great Plains and the Carolinas are below last year due to drought-like conditions throughout much of the growing season. Growers expect to harvest 79.3 million acres for grain, up 350,000 acres from June but 8 percent lower than last year.

Soybean production is forecast at 2.97 billion bushels, up 15 percent from last year but down 7 percent from the record high production of 2006. If realized, this will be the fourth largest production on record. Based on August 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 40.5 bushels per acre, down 0.7 bushel from 2007. Compared with last year, yields are forecast lower in Illinois, Iowa, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, Ohio, Texas, and across the northern and central Great Plains. In contrast, yield prospects are forecast higher than last year or unchanged across the remainder of the country, with the largest increases in Kentucky and Tennessee, up 13 and 12 bushels from last year, respectively. Area for harvest in the U.S. is forecast at 73.3 million acres, up 2 percent from June and up 17 percent from 2007.

Winter wheat production is forecast at 1.87 billion bushels. This is up 1 percent from last month and 24 percent above 2007. The U.S. yield is forecast at 46.6 bushels per acre, up 0.3 bushel from last month and up 4.4 bushels from last year. The area expected to be harvested for grain totals 40.3 million acres, unchanged from last month but up 12 percent from last year. Hard Red Winter, at 1.06 billion bushels, is up 1 percent from a month ago. Soft Red Winter, at 609 million bushels, is up slightly from the last forecast. White Winter is down 3 percent from last month and now totals 211 million bushels. Of this total, 23.6 million bushels are Hard White and 187 million bushels are Soft White.

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CORN, 2007 - August 1, 2008

District	Planted		Harvested		Yield		Production	
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
	1,000 acres		1,000 acres		Bushels		1,000 bushels	
Northwest	2,163	2,069	2,135	2,006	186	182	397,074.8	365,092
Northeast	1,242	1,184	1,229	1,151	185	183	227,409.1	210,633
West	1,236	1,186	1,219	1,151	184	176	224,333.7	202,576
Central	1,883	1,691	1,868	1,655	193	191	360,529.8	316,105
East	1,844	1,666	1,829	1,622	184	169	336,567.1	274,118
West Southwest	1,851	1,708	1,835	1,641	170	167	311,935.1	274,047
East Southeast	1,729	1,547	1,710	1,475	160	155	273,616.8	228,625
Southwest	590	553	573	528	123	141	70,450.7	74,448
Southeast	662	596	652	571	126	147	81,832.9	83,956
ILLINOIS	13,200	12,200	13,050	11,800	175	172	2,283,750.0	2,029,600

SOYBEANS, 2007 - August 1, 2008

District	Planted		Harvested		Yield		Production	
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
	1,000 acres		1,000 acres		Bushels		1,000 bushels	
Northwest	769	889	765	864	50	48	38,399.1	41,472
Northeast	619	675	616	668	48	47	29,569.5	31,396
West	760	791	754	769	45	46	34,158.1	35,374
Central	976	1,166	972	1,144	51	48	49,651.4	54,912
East	1,153	1,279	1,147	1,261	53	45	60,821.2	56,745
West Southwest	1,035	1,175	1,028	1,158	40	40	41,129.9	46,320
East Southeast	1,424	1,577	1,416	1,561	40	35	57,248.9	54,635
Southwest	794	832	788	821	27	35	21,485.7	28,735
Southeast	670	716	664	704	27	37	17,986.2	26,311
ILLINOIS	8,200	9,100	8,150	8,950	43	42	350,450.0	375,900

WINTER WHEAT, 2007 - August 1, 2008

District	Planted		Harvested		Yield		Production	
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
	1,000 acres		1,000 acres		Bushels		1,000 bushels	
Northwest	42	49	39	44	72	70	2,808.0	3,080
Northeast	47	71	40	64	67	73	2,680.0	4,672
West	65	76	63	71	65	63	4,095.0	4,473
Central	42	46	39	44	60	66	2,340.0	2,904
East	73	84	50	78	60	71	3,000.2	5,538
West Southwest	146	155	142	153	59	63	8,378.0	9,639
East Southeast	178	218	163	215	60	64	9,779.8	13,760
Southwest	275	325	253	317	49	64	12,397.0	20,372
Southeast	132	176	101	174	52	63	5,252.0	10,962
ILLINOIS	1,000	1,200	890	1,160	57	65	50,730.0	75,400